

I attended the Hearing in Seattle and was heartened to listen to comments from so many people. I am very concerned about the possible deregulation of rules governing media conglomeration. Since 1996, a Seattle radio station now owned by a national company has reduced their playlist from 1400 songs to 300 songs. They have fired local DJs, removed the local music show, replaced them with syndicated programs and fool the listeners into thinking they are making real requests. This is radio for the national lowest common denominator. I feel misused. Consider also, when an employee of the station is let go, where can they apply for jobs if that company owns most of the media in town?

The airwaves are such a precious source of public information. When crafting a news report for several cities, how can a diverse viewpoint be maintained? I've heard of stations where national DJ programming means there is no DJ. No one to help get information from the community in case of emergency. No one to share in our local triumphs either.

Please keep the ownership rules strong and ensure strong diverse communities to flourish.